

BEGG FARM OPENCAST COAL SITE, KIRKCALDY	
Description:	Opencast Coal Mining
Form of Contract:	Not Applicable
Duration:	6 years
Value:	£18 million
Client:	I & H Brown
Clients Representative:	Not Applicable

Coal extraction from this site was completed in June 2006 and the area is undergoing restoration.

Coal was mined at the site by the opencast method, predominantly involving large hydraulic excavators loading to 50 and 100 Tonne rigid and 40 Tonne articulated dump trucks. Some ten million cubic metres of material was moved during the six-year project to produce over 600,000 Tonnes of coal for power stations and domestic use.

Extensive blasting operations were required and vibration monitoring was carried out alongside continuous checks on noise, dust and water quality. All water from the site passed through a series of settlement lagoons prior to treatment in reed beds before discharge to existing watercourses. The site was independently audited every 8 weeks to confirm our compliance with the Planning and Environmental conditions placed on the development.

To facilitate the operation of the site, we constructed a surfaced access road from the adjacent public highway to the site offices and the coal processing area. One particular innovation at Begg was our installation of an overland field conveyor to transport coal 1,200m across a river and railway lines to an existing railhead. This ensured that 90 per cent of the coal mined was transported off site by rail.



We maintained excellent relationships with regulators and the local community and hosted numerous visits to explain our operations. A proportion of income from the site was donated to a trust fund that eventually saw a substantial sum contributed to local environmental projects.

